



science for a changing world

<http://astrogeology.usgs.gov>

Orbit

0.72 astronomical units (AU) from the Sun
Earth is 1 AU from the Sun

Length of year

224.7 Earth days

Length of Day

243 Earth days

Tilt of Rotation Axis

177.4 degrees versus 23.5 degrees for Earth

Size

Diameter: 0.95 of Earth's diameter

Surface Gravity

0.9 of Earth's gravity
If you weigh 80 pounds on Earth, you would only weigh about 72 pounds on Venus

Mass

0.82 of Earth's mass

Surface Temperature

Mean temperature: 867 degrees Fahrenheit

Atmosphere

Carbon dioxide is the primary component

Surface

Venus probably once had large amounts of water like Earth, but it all boiled away; Venus is now quite dry. Most of Venus' surface consists of gently rolling plains with little relief. There are also several broad depressions and two large highland areas. Data from the Magellan mission shows that much of Venus is covered by lava flows.

Moons

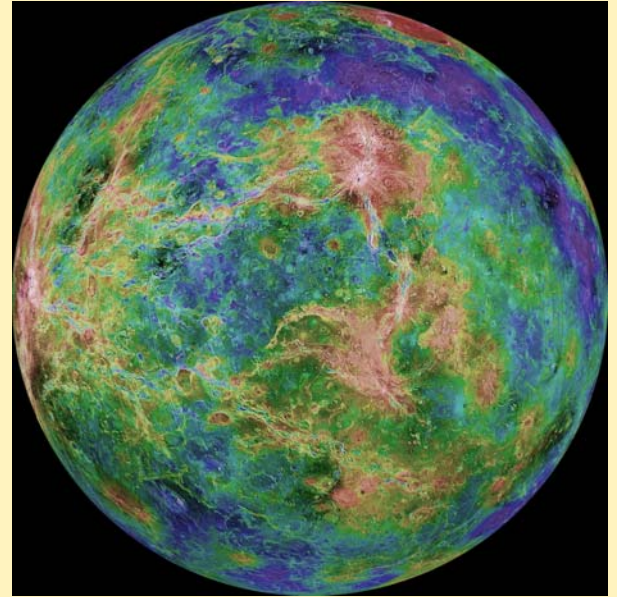
Venus has no moons.

Past Missions

Mariner 2 (1962)
More than 20 others including Pioneer Venus, Soviet Venera 7, Soviet Venera 9, and the U.S. orbiter Magellan (launched 1989, mission ended 1994)

Venus

Second planet from the Sun



USGS/NASA PIA00160

Venus is the Roman name for the goddess of love. Venus was considered to be the brightest and most beautiful planet or star in the heavens.

The Sun rises in the west and sets in the east on Venus.

Features on Venus are named after goddesses of mythology, famous women, and common female first names.

Venus is visible to the naked eye without the aid of a telescope. It is always close to the Sun in the sky, appearing as a morning star shortly before sunrise or an evening star shortly after sunset. Its motion against the field of background stars shows it to be a planet. The word "planet" is derived from a Greek word for "wanderer."